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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1938.

A ONE-SIDED QUESTION.

The Torrens System of Land Registration has been under discussion in Virginia for nearly four years, within which period many communications and editorials have appeared in this paper on the subject. Thoughtful men throughout the State have been quietly advocating its adoption. It seems to have met with the favor of every one who has investigated it. No fact nor circumstance has been adduced from the experience of other countries and States to indicate any dissatisfaction on the part of those who have actually tried it, and no arguments have been advanced by any one to discredit the principles of the system. Indeed, it appears to be pre-eminently a practical act, and is operated with the utmost success wherever it has been properly established, commending itself alike to the real estate owners and agents, bankers, brokers, active business men in every walk of life, the judiciary, and the progressive members of the legal profession. Judge B. J. Wellford, Jr., of the Seventh Circuit, and Judge Henry E. Blair, of the Fourteenth Circuit, whose long and eminent services upon the bench of this State entitles their opinions to weight, have both expressed their approval of the movement from its inception. Judge Wellford wrote to the chairman of the Bar Association Committee, in August, 1930: "Please accept my thanks for the paper you kindly sent me containing a part of your valuable report on the Torrens System. I feel the deepest sympathy in your views and believe that some most valuable legislation is practicable for the relief of the evils of our present system." Judge Blair wrote in January, 1931: "It has been with much gratification that I have observed the zealous efforts you are making to have the Torrens System adopted in this State, and with much pleasure and high approval have read some of your articles on the subject, and truly hope you may succeed in your laudable efforts. For I think no system would be of more value to the holders and owners of land in the State since the adoption of Mr. Jefferson's law of descent." Other members of the bench have also expressed their approval, among whom may be prominently mentioned Judge C. E. Nicol, of the Eleventh Circuit. Referring to a letter published in this paper, Mr. P. Bouldin, Jr., member of the bar from Patrick county, said: "I have long intended giving expression to some such views as are set out in the letter referred to by you. . . . This country is full of undeveloped resources, but we are asleep. When we get the titles set right, or a reasonable way to do so, then a long stride has been made."

Mr. J. Hill Carter Beverley, of Essex county, has written that he has considered the subject carefully and approves it because it would remove some of the burdens upon real estate, "and it certainly is a vast improvement on the present conditions."

Dr. E. G. Booth, of James City county, says that in his judgment "Every land holder in Virginia ought to interest himself in securing the adoption of the Torrens System."

Major W. Miles Cary, recently farming in Charlotte county, but now being engaged in the real estate business in Richmond, has said: "It affords me genuine pleasure to inform you of my hearty approval of the Torrens System of Land Registration. It is just the thing we need and I cannot but believe it will assuredly become the law, and lasting substantial benefits accrue to every property holder in the State."

Mr. Arthur T. Byrnes, of Nelson county, wrote in 1931, that he could not help thinking the Torrens System would prove invaluable to all real estate holders in Virginia, and added: "I feel sure that if the people once became acquainted with its merits there will be no difficulty in its adoption here."

Mr. G. W. Gatliff, of Mecklenburg county, has written: "I am in entire sympathy with your views touching the crying demand for change in our laws of land registration. I think the move for the adoption of the Torrens System, or something similar, would be eagerly received and certainly without opposition."

The late Hon. Basil B. Gordon, of Rappahannock county, wrote in 1930: "I read with great interest your article on the Australian system of land transfer and the comments of the paper on it. It has always been a hobby of mine. The first two transactions that fell upon me after father's death were to sell \$25,000 of certain bonds and to buy a little lot costing \$60. The first took twenty minutes, the latter consumed nearly three weeks, and the expenses of the two were absurdly near being the same."

Mr. L. T. Hanes, civil engineer and surveyor of Alexandria county, has heartily endorsed the principles of the Torrens System, and said: "I can think of no legislative act that would be of such immense financial benefit to Virginia as such you suggest, and would gladly co-operate in my humble capacity to bring it about."

Mr. L. S. Macon, a prominent farmer of Albemarle county, has written: "I think the Torrens System of Land Registration would relieve land owners of unnece-

sary expenses, and I will do all I can in favor of it with our citizens and members of the Legislature." Another farmer of Albemarle county, referring to the Torrens System, writes: "Any one who has had to borrow money on land, as I have, appreciates the costs and difficulties in showing a true title, which seem to be obviated by this system. I shall be glad to do anything I can to advance its adoption."

Mr. Henry C. Rice, of Charlotte county, says he believes the Torrens System will remove a very real and serious evil and adds: "Every one knows the difficulty of getting ready money in an emergency upon land. The ability to draw at will upon a bank is almost a necessity in business of every kind. The transfers of titles are both expensive and tedious, and the work of the lawyer often laborious and unsatisfactory as it is with great difficulty he can pronounce a title perfect."

Mr. W. H. Ruthrauff, cashier of the Farmers' National Bank of Salem, declared two years ago that he thought well of the Torrens System and would see what could be done to interest the people in it. Mr. John A. Stuart, prominent farmer of Augusta county, has written: "I approve of the system most heartily, and would be rejoiced to see it, or something similar adopted. I hope you will keep agitating this matter before the people until their ignorance, indifference and carelessness be dispelled, and they be brought to see how they have, for so long a time, been neglecting such an important matter and one that affects their material interest so much."

Mr. H. B. Turner, well known farmer of King George county, has said: "I am satisfied the Torrens System will be a big thing in favor of the farmers."

Mr. H. G. Taylor, prominent farmer of Richmond county, has written "that he is fully in accord with the advocates of the Torrens System, believes that something should be done, and that this system is what the people want."

Mr. John Wilkinson, of Carroll county, has written that he is favorably struck with the Torrens System, and adds: "I am satisfied from what information I have on the subject it would be a good thing, and all I have talked to on the subject think the same, if it does not cost too much to get it in operation."

Mr. R. H. Woodward, of Middlesex county, has written that he considers the subject a very important one to all land owners, and all interested in lands, that he sees the great importance of a change and will do what he can to bring the matter before the people of his county.

Mr. W. S. Hopkins, a member of the Lexington bar, has written: "Having become satisfied as to the utility and advantages of the Torrens System, I shall be very glad to give my support and my influence I may have to its adoption by our State." Mr. Hopkins writes that the subject was discussed nearly two years ago in a club at Lexington and Lee University and the Virginia Military Institute, and several lawyers and one or two business men of the town. He says all appeared greatly interested and were almost unanimous even at that early day in agreeing that the system should be adopted in Virginia, though the Constitutional Convention had not then made the special provision for that purpose which the new Constitution now contains.

With such a weight of argument in favor of the system and no argument against it, how can the General Assembly hesitate to put the system in force in this State?

NO POLITICS IN IT.

When it was first announced that the Senate had refused to confirm the nomination of Mr. D. S. Pollock to be superintendent of public schools in Pulaski county, we had the impression, and others had the impression, that Mr. Pollock had been rejected for political reasons. We were genuinely distressed to hear such a thing said, for it has been the desire of all friends of public education in Virginia to see the public school system conducted by the rule of merit and not according to the rule of partisan politics.

This incident seemed to us a distinct blow to the public school system in Virginia, and gave us no little concern. But in the light of more recent events we feel sure that it was not a matter of politics, but a misunderstanding which caused the Senate to reject Mr. Pollock's nomination, and we are also quite sure that Senator St. Clair, in urging the appointment of Mr. Darst, was actuated by the very best motives, by the motive of true interest in the public schools of Pulaski. Senator St. Clair is from Giles county, and the schools of Giles are exceptionally good. There are nine graded schools in the county, each school having from two to four teachers. Senator St. Clair has taken a very keen interest in these schools, having boys of his own to educate, and has contributed liberally toward the support of his home school.

"The public schools of Pulaski are not so good, and Senator St. Clair was in favor of the appointment of a practical educator as superintendent. Mr. Darst is a teacher of long experience, and we are informed that he keeps up with the methods of the times and is thoroughly capable of conducting a normal school. It was for this reason that Senator St. Clair favored him; and so thoroughly convinced was he of Mr. Darst's fitness for the place that he requested the opportunity of appearing before the Board to present his claims. Mr. St. Clair understood that he was to have a hearing, and when the appointment was announced, he felt that he had been treated badly. Therefore, when the nomination came up for confirmation in the Senate, upon presentation of his side of the case, the Senate rejected it. The Senator has since satisfied himself, however, that there was a misunderstanding; that the Board did not intend to be discourteous, and he has no personal feeling in the matter.

"The Times-Dispatch takes it upon itself to make these explanations, not in the interest of any person, not in the interest of the Board of Education, or the Senator from Pulaski, or Mr. Pollock or Mr. Darst, but in the interest of the public school system. We are convinced that Senator St. Clair favored the nomination of Mr. Darst because he believed him to be the best man for the position; we believe also that the Board of Education appointed Mr. Pollock because, in the eyes of the board, he was the best man for the position. There was no politics in it, so far as we have been able to discover, and no disposition on the part of anybody concerned to make a turn in politics at the expense of the public school system. It gives us great pleasure to make this statement. For the love of the dear children of Virginia, let us keep politics out of the public school system."

THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST.

Says President Roosevelt in his latest outburst on the negro question: "As I am writing to a man of keen and trained intelligence, I need hardly say that to connect either of these appointments or any or all my other appointments or my actions in upholding the law of Indiana with such questions as 'social equality' and 'negro domination' is as absurd as to connect them with the nebular hypothesis or the theory of atoms."

But, why leave the question in doubt? Let the President come out and say whether he favors or opposes 'social equality' and 'negro domination.' Let him say whether he favors or opposes drawing the color line as it is done in the South, or let us put a case to him. The New York Sun of yesterday prints the following special:

OMAHA, Neb., March 1.—A negro school teacher was appointed on Thursday to the George Francis Train Public School, one of the largest in the city. At noon the pupils reported the matter to their parents. The attendance for the afternoon was only fifty per cent. of the normal.

On Friday still more deserted, and the ultimatum has gone forth to the school board to "Take away the negroes or we will close the school in which she teaches by keeping our children away." The School Board will take up this matter on Monday.

Now suppose Mr. Roosevelt had made this appointment, and this knotty case were up to him; what would he do? Would he force these people to have a negro teacher or close the school? What say you, Mr. President?

The United States revenue officials of North Carolina are not at all pleased with the Watta law, recently passed by the Legislature, which forbids the manufacture of whiskey anywhere except in incorporated towns. One of these officers, who has been interviewed by the Asheville Citizen, says: "Many of the distilleries cannot afford to move to town. Most of them are small affairs and only exist because they have wood and grain and cheap labor right at hand, and such cannot afford to move to town where material and labor are higher and where they must pay town taxes. But the stills will keep right on working, not openly in their present locations, but as blockade stills in the obscure coves of the mountains, and wherever one of these stills does close a moonshine still will spring up in its place."

These officers further complain that under the operations of the law the internal revenue men will be worked to death trying to suppress the moonshiners. They say, and truly say, that the State and county officers have never troubled themselves to put down moonshining, although it is as much a violation of State law as it is of the Federal statutes, but have always left this work entirely to the United States marshals and revenue agents. This the State officers will continue to do, although there will now be double the number of illicit stills in the mountains as heretofore. The upshot of the whole business will be that the United States will pay the bills for the enforcement of a State law. The temperance folks are pleased at this prospect, for they argue that inasmuch as the Watta law was made by a Democratic Legislature, the government officials, who are Republicans, will, in order to make it odious to the mountain people, do their utmost to enforce it. Thus the temperance contingent will see the law given a fair and vigorous trial, and at little or no expense to the State. Truly Watta bulled better than he knew.

Kansas is again bleeding. She is now being bled by a superfluity of small or neoholders. The Legislature now is session is composed of one hundred and sixty-five members, and they require more waiting on than any sovereigns that ever assembled in any American State. This Legislature has hired three hundred officers to hang around and see that the august body is properly looked after. Among these are thirty doorkeepers to watch four doors, twenty sergeants at arms, a dozen or more superintendents of ventilation, more than a score of pages and other officers, enough to keep the treasury well depleted as long as the Legislature remains in session. Evidently the present administration in Kansas believes in the doctrine that to the victors belong all the cash in sight.

A movement has been started in Illinois to induce the Legislature to prohibit free lunch counters in the saloons of that State. The bill, which it is proposed to introduce this week, contains a section making it an unlawful act for any person to place, a lunch of any kind for public consumption has not been fixed in advance, while another section makes it an unlawful act for any person to participate in a public place, or a lunch in the nature of a premium gift. Inasmuch as the free lunch counter had its birth in Virginia, Danville being the place of its nativity, this bill is believed by some to be intended as a direct blow at Virginia institutions.

The Baltimore Sun, commenting on Congressman Lacey's suggestion that Virginia should send to Washington a statue, not of Lee, but of Monroe, says Monroe should have a statue in the National Capitol, and that it should be erected by the United States. In this connection it notes that few statues of Presidents there are in Washington city. The Sun suggests that Congress should set apart a fine site in the Capitol building, in which to erect statues of Roosevelt and Lincoln in a space to meet future needs.

Mr. St. Clair is at the head of the great National Shipbuilding Company, has declined for Judge Parker for the next Democratic nomination for the Presidency. Mr. Nixon was for a short time at the head of Tammany Hall, and is a Virginian by birth, as most of our readers know. Parker is chief judge of the highest court of the State of New York.

Francis Botto has bequeathed the sum of \$100,000 to trustees, who are enjoined to use the income to found a school of popular cooking in Germany. A very good idea indeed. The German housewife prides herself on her cooking and glories in doing with as few servants as possible. Her work is hard, to be sure, but she is just as happy as her American sister, who spends her life worrying over the servants. And it is a settled fact that worry ages one faster than work.

The Governor of Minnesota, Mr. Van Sant, never saw the ocean until one day last week, when he landed at Atlantic City. He is the gentleman who thought he and Minnesota were big enough to smash a great railroad trust. He has traveled some now.

Mr. Dave Francis, of St. Louis, is already reaping a part of the glory coming to him because of the great Exposition. He has had an interview with King Edward. Who will be our Jamestown Dave Francis?

Go it, Justice John! The people are with you. Fine every saloon keeper who sells liquor to minors and every merchant who sells cigarettes to those under the age prescribed by law. So long as those laws are on the books, let them be rigidly enforced.

Vermont's towns and villages, great and small, are in the throes of local option elections to-day, each one taking the vote on the question of issuing liquor licenses under the new State law.

With the south winds and the first warnings of the spring there comes another tumble in coal. Wood should proceed to follow suit if it wants to keep up with the procession.

There is sense in Mr. Sipe's monument bill. Why not make a complete job of erecting monuments to our heroes and have a second group in the Capitol Square?

And so after all the President will hold the Senate with him for a while longer. He will try and get along without the House, however.

General Bragg's wife will be sure not to let anybody read the old gentleman's remarks about the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

The school children got badly cheated this year. The Fourth of July comes on Saturday.

Honduras is wrestling with only two revolutions at the present time, that is to say, this week.

One whiff of spring weather is sufficient to fill the whorl windows with light and gauzy fabrics.

Wedding gifts are never more acceptable than when of Gorham Silver

whose sterling quality and thorough workmanship are recognized by its recipients as assurances of permanent value. The Gorham trade-mark amounts to a personal guarantee.

All responsible jewelers keep it

The Man ABOUT TOWN

DAILY CALENDAR, MARCH 8D.

9:30 A. M.—Started to get up.
2:30 P. M.—Got up.
Moral: A rolling stone gathers no moss.

What's the use in minding matters. Mother's baby has a tooth. And we're destined all this summer to patrol the floor, forthwith.

We are anxious to once more lie us hence to the soothing zephyrs from York River, but the wind blows across the big Board Walk.

We yearn to sit beneath the shade trees of old West Point and consume the luscious crabs as they are jerked forth from the boiling pot.

How beautiful are those words—"Pristine glory. . . . How they make one's mouth water and how they bring up thoughts of 'One Beer'!"

As the summer shades were falling down upon the dusty bank. Some one started us by calling: "Take us to the water tank!"

How sweet it is to stroll about among the roads and by-ways of West Point, where the holy hock and the humble breeze carry their dirtdrums, and the lazy butterfly lolls about on the balmy air.

We love to stroll up a hillside with East at your side and the village (any old village) at your feet.

There to loiter against a mossy bank and drink the sparkling water as it gushes forth from some small artesian well, and the wind rose bushes and spouts into a miniature torrent as it starts on toward the mighty sea, or words to that effect.

We like to drop into poetic thoughts every now and then just to let our thumbs or admirers know that we used to be able to recite a piece at the school commencement when we were in knickerbockers, about fifty-six years ago.

More or less.

Did you ever date?

We have dated often, and its splendour. We always date when she begins to talk about the pies Her mother makes and the biscuits.

And did you ever go home to get something to eat, half starved, and find nothing on hand but some oranges and cold beef, with no bread and butter?

That's the time to date. Some people swear.

So that's why we are glad summer is nearly here, because we want to go to York Point and see the broad expanse of York River as it reflects the sun a million times upon its broad bosom.

And date.

Do not believe that Mary took her lamb to school. For what we know of Mary. She is not so much a fool.

HARRY TUCKER.

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Wilson News says:

A bill has been introduced and favorably reported in the Legislature to prohibit the sale of cigarettes in North Carolina. This may be a good bill, but if other States adopt similar legislation it will be a hard blow to our farmers, as most of the tobacco used in the manufacture of cigarettes is raised in North Carolina.

The Wilmington Messenger has this to say:

How many people believe Senator Tillman would vote to confirm the nomination of a negro as a Cabinet officer? We do not suppose, though the President is anxious to give the people an opportunity of having their curiosity gratified.

The Newbern Journal says:

Whatever the evil there is in liquor selling is a matter to be judged, not passed on accordingly, by each community. If a local abuse, then it may be checked and controlled by the local sentiment and power of those citizens favoring the right, and no community exists where the sentiment for right does not prevail over that for evil.

The Charlotte Observer says:

The Legislature did itself credit by going outside of its own membership for Code commissioners, though there are a number of lawyers in that body quite fitted for this work. The observation of ex-Judge W. B. O. Robinson, concerning the last Legislature, that its members had created a lot of new offices and then filed laborers' liens against them was as apt as it was witty. It is well that this Legislature is to escape that condemnation.

The Durham Herald sounds this warning:

If the Legislature proposes to incorporate every distillery in the State the passage of the Watta bill was work thrown away.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel says:

The Richmond Times-Dispatch says: "The North Carolina papers seem to be greatly stirred up over the recent tragedies in Raleigh and Charlotte. And in other parts of the State, our contemporary might well add, the editorials are reflecting the sentiment of the people."

The Editor Explained.

A Salt Lake paper said that a delegation of jack-rabbits would be an improvement upon the legislators from San Pete county, and upon the Legislature. This leads the editor to explain that the printer is to blame; that he wrote it "jackasses" and not "jack-rabbits," as alleged—Dallas News.

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"BOBS" His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.

By REGINALD LANG.

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CHAPTER V.

Not a person was to be seen on the street where the Van Nostrand house stood at 2 o'clock in the morning after the dinner spoken of in the last chapter, except a very drunken individual who was leaning up against the iron fence which surrounded the front of the house. He was quiet, but apparently much in need of the support of the fence, as he clung to it most affectionately. The light at the corner had unaccountably gone out, and nothing but the dim light of the stars, which were more or less obscured by clouds, relieved the obscurity.

There was a slight scraping sound as of the opening of a window. The drunken man became suddenly sober and alert and looked up and down the street. He gave a peculiar whistle, which was answered from the area side of the front steps, and then resumed his former attitude.

"Now, Bobs be quick and quiet!" "All right, push."

The boy slid noiselessly through the window and in a minute the key turned in the lock and three men slipped behind the door, closing quietly behind them.

"Here, Reddie, pass the light, and London, taking the electric lantern, moved ahead and up the short flight of stairs, followed by the other man and boy. "Are you all here? Follow me in single file," and each man taking the lead by the coat stole silently across the great hall into the dining-room, now silent, but so lately ringing with gay laughter.

"Where's the safe?" asked shortly, in a low tone.

"Over here," was the reply. "Get the other light and tools. I will shoot the catch to this window in case we are disturbed. Now get to work quick. Here's the panel. Throw the light here, Reddie. There we are. There is the safe; now waste no time, for we have none to spare, thanks to that butler."

The man bent to his task, and hence long the door swung back on its hinges and the contents were at their mercy.

"Now, boys, look sharp. Put the silver into the bag. I will take this drawer and look after it."

"What's the matter with Bobs? Looks like he was frose. My God, a ghost!" Just in the doorway of the room, where the heavy curtains parted, the eyes of the three men rested horror-struck on an apparition all in white, holding a light and staring with wide open eyes.

For a moment there was intense silence, then the figure dropped the light with a scream and fled. Bobs followed mechanically, with London at his heels, the others dropping out of the window.

"Run for the door, Bobs," whispered London as he passed him, the stairs below. "He's seized the